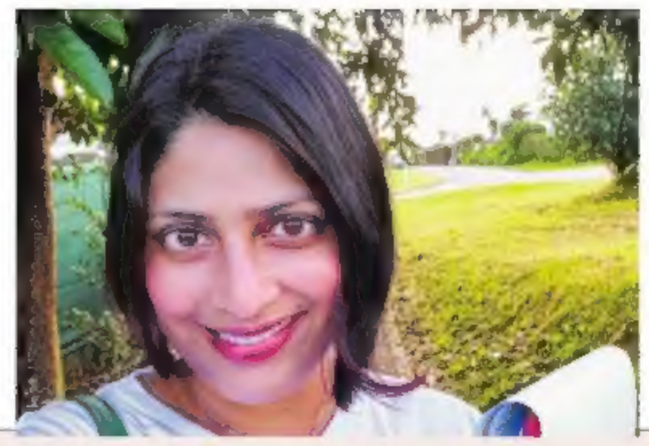
THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

BENGALURU • TUESDAY • NOVEMBER 03, 2020 • ₹7.00 • PAGES 20 • LATE CITY EDITION



READ SHARE FOLLOW
newindianexpress.com
facebook.com/thenewindianexpress twitter.com/newindianexpress
instagram.com/newindianexpress

NZ PM INDUCTS FIRST-EVER INDIAN-ORIGIN MINISTER

Priyanca Radhakrishnan, who has roots in Ernakulam, bags three key portfolios in PM Jacinda Ardern's new ministry

BORN IN CHENNAI TO MALAYALI PARENTS

A second-time MP from the Labour Party, Priyanca is one of the five new faces in PM Ardern's ministry. She's been given charge of three portfolios—community and voluntary sector; diversity, inclusion and ethnic communities; and youth development. Her parents, originally from Kerala's Ernakulam district, moved to Chennai where Priyanca was born

A FIGHTER FOR DOMESTIC ABUSE VICTIMS

- In August, Priyanca was noticed in Kerala, when she appeared alongside PM Ardern in a live video to extend Onam greetings
- Prior to becoming an MP in 2017, she had been a social worker, who fought to advance the rights of domestic abuse victims
- Her great-grandfather was associated with Left politics in Kerala

41-yr-old

HAS BEEN A MEMEBER OF THE LABOUR PARTY FOR 14 YEARS

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILUPURAM • KOLLAM • WARANGAL • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

Green shoots? Factory output at decade high

Experts say the numbers need to be read with caution as festive cheer may fade; Must wait for December trends

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ New Delhi

A day after the GST collection figures for October showed a robust uptick, rising past the ₹1 lakh crore-mark, results of a monthly survey on factory output on Monday brought more cheer to the economy.

As sales continue to surge in the ongoing festive season, India's manufacturing sector activity improved for the third straight month in October, a monthly survey among purchasing managers of 400 manufacturers said on Monday.

The IHS Markit India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) rose to 58.9 in October — the highest since mid-2008. In PMI parlance, an index reading above 50 indicates growth.

"New orders and output at Indian manufacturers continued to recover from Covid-19-induced contractions seen earlier, with PMI results for October highlighting historically sharp monthly rates of expansion," said Pollyanna De Lima, economics associate director, IHS Markit.

While the latest PMI data along with the impressive GST numbers released on Sunday

may give the impression that the economy is recovering, experts advise caution. According to them, the festive season can spur economic activities, but one needs to watch if the trend continues beyond the festive season.

"One needs to be cautious while reading this number. This is the festive season and we are coming from a severe lockdown, which needs to be taken into account. One should watch post-December trends, after the festive season," said Madan Sabnavis, Chief Economist, CARE Ratings.

Job cuts continue for 7th month in a row

The survey said companies cut staff for the seventh month in a row, a streak not witnessed since the survey began in 2005. It, however, did not indicate the quantum of job loss

Another growing concern was that despite increase in demand, manufacturers recorded a further reduction in employment.

"There was disappointing news on the employment front though, with October seeing another reduction in payroll numbers. Survey participants who noted job shedding, mentioned having observed containment measures to halt the spread of the coronavirus disease 2019," the survey said.

This indicates that employers are cautious, despite their optimism that things will improve in the coming months.

A blanket of smog engulfed Bengaluru on Monday morning, indicating a rise in air pollution levels in the city | ASHISHKRISHNA HP

B'luru gets ₹139.5 cr to better air quality

ANUSHA RAVI @Bengaluru

BASED on the recommendations of the 15th Finance Commission, the Union Finance Ministry on Monday released ₹2,200 crore as the first installment to 15 states to improve air quality in their million-plus cities.

Karnataka has received ₹139.5 crore from the funds for Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike as urban local body grant. The entire amount released to Karnataka has been allocated to Bengaluru alone. "This will help the beneficiary States to undertake air quality measures, including capacity-building of the local bodies within their million-plus cities/agglomerations," the ministry said.

Karnataka also received its second tranche of funds to offset GST compensation cess shortfall along with 15 other states on Monday.

The Union Finance Ministry, in a press release, said that ₹6,000 crore was being released to 16 states and three Union Territories under the special window of borrowing. "This amount was raised at a weighted average yield of 4.42 per cent. This amount will be passed on to the States/UTs at the same interest rate, which is lower than the cost of borrowings for the States and UTs," the ministry stated.

The allocation for each stage from the ₹6,000 crore was unclear with the ministry not giving a breakup. Officials of Karnataka finance department too are awaiting details to determine Karnataka's allocation from the second tranche.

MANIPAL hospitals to acquire Columbia asia

The healthcare major will invest ₹2,100 crore towards the 100% buyout. The combined entity will have 27 hospitals in 15 cities | P13

TRUMP OR BIDEN?

VOTERS TO DECIDE TODAY

239 million
People eligible to vote this year

94 million
Ballots already cast because of the Covid situation. It is about two-thirds of the overall 2016 vote count of 138.8 million

34.6 million of them are in-person votes. Both Trump and Biden have already cast their ballot

60.4 mn Mail-in ballots, could take days or weeks to be counted in some states, so the winner might not be declared hours after polls close on Tuesday

Trump set to spend election night at White House

Twitter to lean on seven outlets to help determine whether a race is officially called - ABC News, AP, CNN, CBS News, Decision Desk HQ, Fox News and NBC News

BRACING FOR BIDEN

High-net-worth Americans are busy setting up trust funds, giving large gifts to heirs and philanthropies, and even selling family businesses as they brace for the tax hikes a Biden presidency might bring, Axios reports | P12,16

EXPRESS READ

Bypoll for Gasti's RS seat on Dec 1, says EC

New Delhi: Bypoll to the Rajya Sabha seat which was vacated following the demise of MP Ashok Gasti due to Covid-19 will be held on December 1, the Election Commission of India announced on Monday. BJP's Gasti passed away on September 17. P6

AG's no to consent for case on Jagan

New Delhi: Attorney General K K Venugopal Monday termed as "prima facie contumacious" the conduct of AP CM Jagan Mohan Reddy for making allegations against the judiciary, but declined consent to initiate contempt proceedings. P7

At least 22 dead in Kabul univ campus massacre

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

GUNMEN stormed Kabul University in Afghanistan's capital on Monday, killing at least 22 students, including 10 women, and leaving 22 others wounded. The attack happened minutes before Iran's ambassador to the country was to arrive for the opening of a book fair.

It all began around 11 am local time when a suicide bomber blew himself up inside the campus. Two gunmen then opened fire indiscriminately and took dozens hostage, while hundreds of other students fled with many scaling the campus' perimeter walls.

Images posted on social media showed what appeared to be the bodies of students lying in pools of blood in classrooms. "They opened fire... all my classmates were lying in blood, either dead or wounded," a student said.

After six hours of fierce fighting, the two assailants were killed by the Afghan security forces with US support.

Afghan security forces prepare to go into Kabul University on Monday | AP

RISE IN VIOLENCE AS PEACE PROCESS UNDER WAY

Kabul: Monday's attack on Kabul University comes amid a relentless rise in violence across Afghanistan as the Taliban and the Afghan government are negotiating a peace agreement. Their talks in Qatar have made little progress. President Ashraf Ghani vowed to take revenge. "This attack will not remain without response," he said.

The Islamic State (IS) claimed responsibility. Joining the global outrage, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said, "I strongly condemn the cowardly terrorist attack... Our prayers are with the families of the victims and the injured." Pakistan, too, called it an "act of terrorism".

"I can't even name a place that wasn't attacked. The new frontline is everywhere. Those killed and wounded wanted to be doctors, engineers for tomorrow's Afghanistan," tweeted noted Afghan-based journalist Bilal Sarwary.

"We were very scared and we thought it could be the last day of our lives... boys and girls were shouting, praying and crying for help," Ahmadi Samim, a student, said. He reported seeing gunmen, armed with pistols and Kalashnikov assault rifles, firing at students in the university's eastern side, where its law and journalism faculties teach.

It is not clear how many students were in the university at the time of the attack. By one account, there were at least 800 students in the social studies wing alone. Most students were in their respective classrooms when the rampage began. They were under siege for hours before being rescued.

The attack on Afghanistan's oldest university with nearly 17,000 students comes a week after 24 students were killed in an attack on a school in Kabul, which was also claimed by the IS group.

DRAMATIC PIC OF THE THUMB GRAB

Elif Perincek, a three-year-old survivor, (left) holding the thumb of a rescue worker as she is carried out of a collapsed building three days after an earthquake in the Aegean port city of Izmir. The rescuer found her lying motionless and asked for a body bag when she suddenly opened her eyes and grabbed his thumb. (Right) The injured but safe Elif in her hospital bed | AP

3-yr-old rescued 65 hrs after quake in Turkey

WHEN firefighter Muammer Celik reached a three-year-old girl trapped for three days under the rubble of a deadly earthquake in a Turkish coastal city, his heart sank. She was lying motionless, covered in dust, and he asked a colleague for a body bag. But as Celik extended his arm to wipe her face, the child opened her eyes and grabbed his thumb.

"That's where we saw a miracle," Celik of the Istanbul fire department's search-and-rescue team told AP, recounting Monday's operation 65 hours after the quake hit, killing 93 people in Turkey and Greece.

It was the second dramatic rescue on Monday after 14-year-old Idil Sirin was also pulled out alive. Onlookers applauded with joy at both scenes in Izmir, where the vast majority of the deaths and 1,000 injuries have occurred.

The US Geological Survey rated the quake 7.0, though other agencies recorded it as less severe. Many buildings were completely reduced to rubble or saw several floors pancake in on themselves in Turkey.

Celik said he found Elif Perincek lying on her back between her bed and a closet in a space that was just big enough for her. "At first I was very upset," he said.

"Then I stretched out my hand to clean her face and she grabbed my thumb... I froze because right before that moment, I had asked my team for a blanket and a body bag," he added.

ALL THAT GLITTERS

'Gold' bangle shines at Ekalavya awards event

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

THE event was the presentation of Ekalavya awards at the banquet hall in the Vidhana Soudha on Monday.

Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa, usually reticent, seemed to be in a relaxed mood, after hectic campaigning for the bypolls in the last few days. While some awards were given by the CM, some were presented by ministers R Ashoka and C T Ravi.

After giving the awards to a few, Yediyurappa who was standing next to Shivajinagar MLA Rizwan Arshad all of a sudden bent towards Khushi Dinesh, a young swimmer, and asked if it was a gold bangle she was wearing on her right hand. When Khushi said it was an imitation piece, Yediyurappa smilingly told her to buy gold bangles and wear them.

Khushi, 17, is making a name in the national level swimming competitions. Later, speaking to reporters, Khushi said, "It felt very nice that my bangle caught the attention of the Chief Minister and he spoke to me."

Prior to this golden aside, the CM urged sportspersons to prepare themselves to take part in the 2028 Olympics and assured them that the government would provide them full support.

He told the awardees not to get satisfied with the Ekalavya award, instead work hard to participate in international sports events and make Karnataka and India proud.

CONTINUED ON: P7

Ekalavya awardees pose with their trophies at Vidhana Soudha on Monday | SRIHARI MK